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Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

WINTER BIRD FEEDING IN PARKS URGED.

Bureau of Biological Survey of U. S. Department of
Agriculture Suggests to Park Officials in Northern
United States the Advantages of Assisting the
Feathered Life of the Cities to Pass
the Winter Safely.

Washington, D. C., In order that birds may be
helped safely through the approaching winter when snow will cover
many of their usual sources of food, the Bureau of the Biological
Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is urging city park
officials to make bird feeding an activity in the city pleasure
grounds.

Letters have been sent to the officials of parks in the
northern parts of the United States pointing out the value of
birds to the community because of their destruction of insects in-
jurious to trees and crops; and calling attention to Farmers'
Bulletins 621, relating to the Northeastern, and 760, relating to
the Northwestern States, issued by the Department, which offer
practical suggestions for attracting and feeding birds. The furnish-
ing of facilities for feeding the birds in the city parks, it is
pointed out, will give enjoyment to many people, especially bird
lovers.

The letter continues:

"Winter feeding may be done in the simplest ways, as by put-
ting up suet in small cans, in coconuts, or under wire netting, and
by scattering mixed seeds on bare places; or more elaborate appa-
ratus and more varied foods may be used. We enclose a publication
giving details of the methods of feeding and attracting wild birds
and trust that you will be interested in adding bird feeding sta-
tions to the attractions in your parks. By means of them you can
bring to convenient observation points several species of the most
attractive, interesting, and valuable birds. Such feeding stations
are of great interest to children and give the boys and girls a
chance to learn birds while they are having the enjoyment of feed-
ing them.

"The bulletin we enclose specializes on the use of fruit-
producing trees and shrubs in attracting birds and we hope that
this feature also will be of interest to you.

"We are aware that park officials in various cities have al-
ready taken up bird feeding and that the movement has proved popu-
lar. We shall be glad to receive reports on the success of the
plan from any who have tried it, and those who have not are urged
to do so even if only on a small scale. We are sure that the
results will be satisfactory to them as well as helpful to the
birds."